

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 HEW-06 /056 W

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R 221144Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8335

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMCONSUL BELFAST

AMCONSUL EDINBURGH

AMCONSUL LIVERPOOL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, UI

SUBJECT: UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUES ITS RISE IN UK

1. TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BETWEEN DECEMBER AND JANUARY WHILE THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE AGAIN DECREASED. MUCH OF THE INCREASE IN UNEMPLOYMENT COULD BE ATTRIBUTED TO ADULT STUDENTS JOINING THE REGISTER DURING THE CHRISTMAS VACATION, BUT EVEN IF THIS GROUP AND SCHOOL-LEAVERS ARE DISCOUNTED, THE TREND IS STILL STEADILY UPWARDS WITH UNEMPLOYMENT INCREASING AT AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT 40,000 A MONTH ON A SEASONALLY ADJUSTED BASIS.

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2. LATEST STATISTICS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOY-

MENT (DE) SHOU THAT OVER THE MONTH TO JANUARY 8 TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UK INCREASED BY 218,911 TO 1,430,369 OR 6.1 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE, AND IN GREAT BRITAIN, WHICH EXCLUDES NORTHERN IRELAND, BY 209,371 TO 1,372,381 OR 6.0 PERCENT. A TOTAL OF 110,044 ADULT STUDENTS AND 5,898 SCHOOL-LEAVERS JOINED THE GREAT BRITAIN REGISTER. IF THESE GROUPS ARE DISCOUNTED, THE GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL INCREASED BY 93,429 TO 1,213,802, WHICH SEASONALLY ADJUSTED WAS AN INCREASE OF 40,900 TO 1,159,000 OR 5.1 PERCENT OF THE LABOR FORCE. A REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE FIGURES SHOWS THAT THE WORST AFFECTED AREA WAS WALES WITH AN UNEMPLOYMENT RATE OF 6.8 PERCENT FOLLOWED BY THE NORTH WITH 6.6 PERCENT, THE NORTHWEST AT 6.4 PERCENT AND SCOTLAND AT 6.1 PERCENT.

3. THE NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE FOR ADULTS DECREASED OVER THE MONTH TO JANUARY 2 BY 14,251 TO 86,784, WHICH SEASONALLY ADJUSTED WAS A DECREASE OF 5,300 TO 107,200. JOBS FOR YOUNE PEOPLE DECREASED BY 1,779 TO 17,900. THE AVERAGE ILFLOW OF VACANCIES TO EMPLOYMENT OFFICES EACH MONTH OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER WAS 149,400 COMPARED WITH 158,800 OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER, WHILE THE AVERAGE OUTFLOW OF VACANCIES WAS 156,600 A MONTH COMPARED WITH 163,300 OVER THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS. SIMILARLY, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE JOINING THE UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTER EACH MONTH OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO DECEMBER WAS 373,900 COMPARED WITH 388,900 OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER, WHILE THE AVERAGE OF THOSE LEAVING THE REGISTER EACH MONTH WAS 365,800 COMPARED WITH 384,400 A MONTH OVER THE THREE MONTHS TO NOVEMBER. FIGURES FOR THE DURATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT SHOW THAT IN GREAT BRITAIN THE TOTAL OF THOSE UNEMPLOYED FOR FOUR WEEKS OR LESS ON THE DAY OF THE COUNT, JANUARY 8, WAS 208,000 AND THE TOTAL UNEMPLOYED FOR FOUR WEEKS OR MORE WAS 1,044,000. SPIERS

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